Sept. 1, 1959 S. J. CABANBAN 2,902,187

PADLOCK DISPENSER

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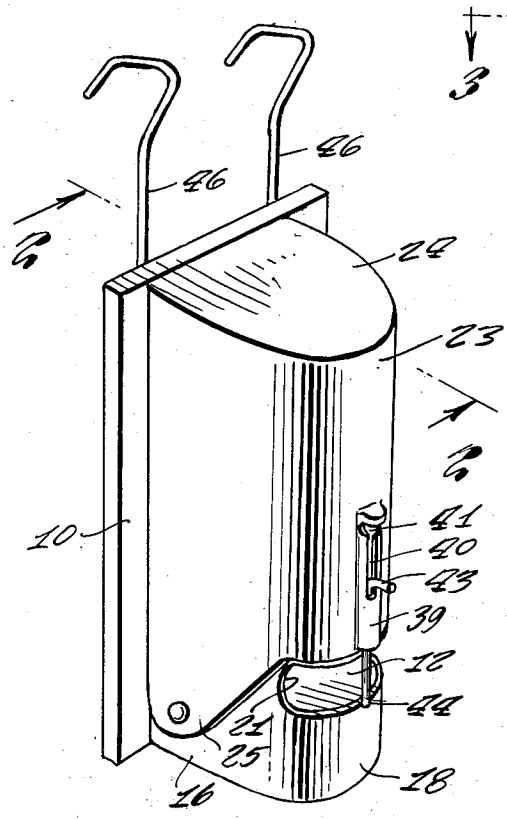


Fig. 1

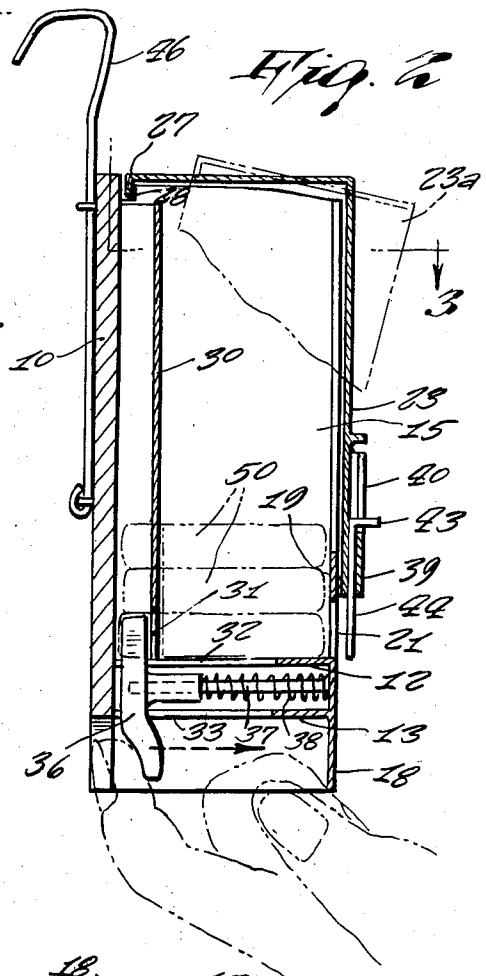


Fig. 2

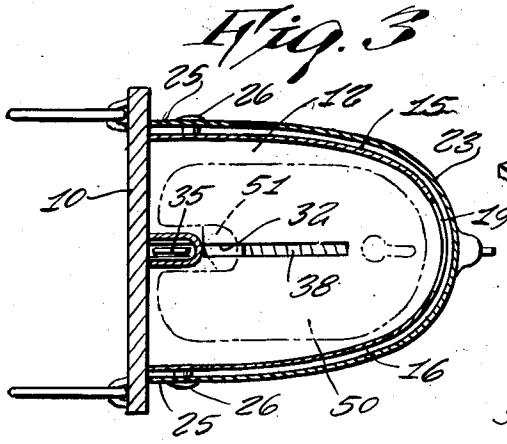


Fig. 3

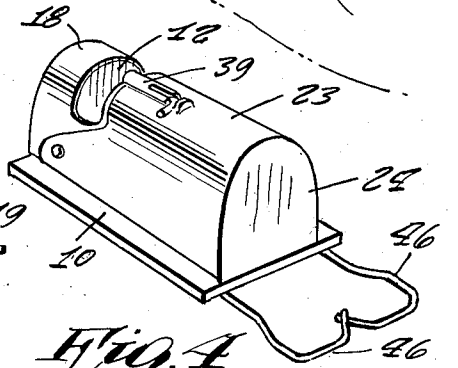


Fig. 4

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PADLOCK DISPENSER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 221—240)

This invention relates to containers and, more particularly, to containers for automatically dispensing open padlocks.

Various types of organizations and institutions require a constant supply of open padlocks for use in sealing various receptacles. This is particularly true in post offices where a padlock is used to secure registered mail pouches. In many instances, closed padlocks become mixed with open padlocks such that substantial time and effort is wasted in selecting only the open padlock for use. Also, many padlocks are misplaced and considerable time is expended in locating such padlocks for use. Therefore, an object of this invention is to provide a container for automatically dispensing only open padlocks that is simple in construction, efficient in operation, and which will overcome the aforementioned difficulties.

Another object of this invention is to provide a container for automatically dispensing single open padlocks in a predetermined position.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the device shown in Figure 1 in a modified position.

Referring now to Figure 1 of the drawing, a container made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a mounting plate **10** to which is secured the basic container structure consisting of spaced parallel base plates **12, 13,** and integral arcuate side plates **15, 16.** The side plates are joined together along their bottom edge by a lower front wall **18** and adjacent their mid-portion by an upper connecting wall **19,** between which walls a rectangular opening **21** is defined.

A substantially U-shaped cover **23** closed by an end wall **24** at one end, is provided with a pair of parallel side wings **25** that are hingedly connected to the opposed side plates **15, 16,** of the base frame by means of pivot pins **26.** The rearmost edge of the closure wall **24** is provided with a perpendicularly extending flange **27** that is normally disposed within a recess **28** at the upper ends of the side plates **15, 16,** so as to maintain the cover in a closed position. The cover is mounted for limited longitudinal movement with the pivot pins **26** so that the flange **27** may be moved out of engagement with the recess **28** to rotate the cover to an open position **23*a*,** as shown in Figure 2. A longitudinal rail **30** of U-shaped cross section is supported upon the plate **10** intermediate the side plates **15, 16,** and has a slot or cutout **31** at its inner extremity that is in alignment with similar slots **32, 33,** in the spaced base plates of the platform. These aligned slots slideably receive a finger **35** of a T-shaped trigger assembly **36** that is slideably mounted upon a support **37** secured to the front wall **18** of the cover. Forward movement of the trigger assembly against the resistance of a compression spring **38** is operative to move the finger **35** towards the front of the housing. The central portion of the cover **23** is provided with a longitudinal housing **39** having a longitudinal slot **40** and intersecting transverse slot **41** which slideably receive the leg **43** of a longitudinally disposed latch element **44.** In a normally locked and extended position, the latch element **44** is operative to block the passage of locks **50** through the opening **21** in the cover.

In using the device, the cover is opened, as shown in Figure 2, and a plurality of open locks **50** arranged in stacked relationship within the confines of the arcuate side plates **15, 16.** In this position, the rail **30** extends between the bifurcated portion of the locks so that only open locks may be inserted therein. In the case of closed locks, the bail **51** which is in a retracted position when the lock is open, would normally be in an extended position thereby blocking the passage of the rail and the proper positioning of the lock. Thus, no closed locks may be placed within the container. A pair of hangers **46** are also provided to facilitate the hanging of the dispenser in any desired location. However, the dispenser may also be used in a horizontal position as shown in Figure 4. In either case, a forward pressure on the trigger **36,** as shown in Figure 2, is operative to effect the engagement of the finger **35** with a single lower lock **50** to thrust it forwardly through the opening **21.** The latch element **44** is used to prevent any locks from accidentally leaving the container and thus must be released prior to the operation of the trigger.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the specific form shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A dispenser for storing and dispensing open padlocks comprising, in combination, a mounting plate, a base frame secured to said mounting plate having a pair of arcuate side plates and a front connecting wall defining an opening, a platform between said side plates supporting a stack of open padlocks, a longitudinal guide rail extending perpendicularly to said platform for guiding engagement within the bight portion of each of the stack of open padlocks for receiving open padlocks and for preventing the insertion of closed padlocks into said dispenser, a trigger assembly for effecting movement of a single lock in a direction perpendicular to the access of said guide rail through said opening, a cover releasably enclosing said base frame comprising a front wall in substantial alignment with said connecting wall, a latch element supported upon said front wall for movement between a blocking position in front of said opening and a retracted position relative thereto, the adjacent portions of said guide rail and said platform being provided with aligned slots opening toward said opening, and said trigger assembly including a finger adapted to be received within said slots for expelling a single lock upon movement of said latch member to said retracted position.

2. A dispenser as set forth in claim 1, wherein said finger is normally disposed in a retracted position within the confines of said rail.

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